

along the LOC w.e.f. 16th October, 1991.

(b) when this scheme was started?

[Translation]

Theft of Files

1553. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Raksha Manralaya se failein gayab" appearing in Jansatta dated September 30, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A file was reported missing in 1982 and, despite all efforts, it could not be traced. This fact was brought to the notice of the Audit. Instructions have since been issued to all concerned, re-iterating the need for ensuring the safe custody of files, and to hold a thorough enquiry to fix responsibility in case any file is reported misplaced/not traceable, without any loss of time.

Advisory Services to State Governments for Export Promotion.

1554. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of advisory services provided to the State Governments for export promotion during the last three years, State-wise; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Trade Development Authority helps to prepare action plans for various States. These plans identify exportable products, suggest marketing strategy, infrastructural requirements and policy adjustments.

Action Plans/Surveys have been prepared for the following States during the last three years:-

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. North-Eastern Region
5. Orissa
6. Sikkim
7. Tamil Nadu
8. Tripura
9. Uttar Pradesh
10. West Bengal

(b) The Trade Development Authority has been providing this service since 1985.

[English]

Export of Pepper

1555. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of pepper exported during the last three years, yearwise;

- (b) whether there has not been considerable increase in the export of pepper;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of pepper?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) to (c). Details of exports of pepper, during the last three years, year-wise are given below:

Year	Qty. (MT)
1988-89	36981
1989-90	34482
1990-91	31871

Exports of pepper have declined due to a variety of reasons including the Gulf war, a fall in domestic production in 1990-91 and high domestic prices of Indian pepper.

(d) With a view to promote exports of pepper, different pepper based products viz. pepper oil, eleoresins dehydrated green pepper and frozen green pepper etc. were developed and detailed study/surveys have been organised by the Spices Board to explore the market potential. Other export promotional activities like participation in International fairs, sending delegations/study teams to selected markets and arranging buyer-seller meetings in India to promote export of spices, including pepper, are organised by the Spices Board.

Cochin Port

1556. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total mandays lost in Cochin Port due to strike during the last one year;

(b) the steps taken to regularise the casual employees of Cochin Dock Labour Board; and

(c) the total earnings and expenditure of Cochin Port during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There was no strike by the employees employed by Cochin Port or Cochin Dock Labour Board. Hence, there was no loss of mandays.

(b) Efforts to evolve a formula in consultation with the Unions have not succeeded.

(c) During 1990-91, total earnings of the Cochin Port were Rs.63.65 crores and total expenditure was Rs.53.24 crores.

Effect of NRI Deposits on Balance of Payment Position

1557. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the balance of payments position is affected by the investments/deposits of the Non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of foreign exchange reserves accounted for by the Non-resident Indian deposits as on December, 31, 1989, 1990 October 31, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The balance of payments position is affected by the deposits of the non-Resident Indians in as much as the net inflow from NRI deposits